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The general theory being posited in the first two chapters, the author thenceforth makes more scientific application of it. In the balance of the book such topics as The Struggle for Existence, Labor, Slavery, Cannibalism, The Marriage Institution, Incest, Asceticism, Education, are treated *in extenso* with a wealth of illustration.

By many Professor Sumner's views would be considered radical in the extreme. There are no final standards. "The mores can make anything right and prevent condemnation of anything." Yet, no one can take exception to the spirit and method of the author no matter how much he may dissent from his philosophy. The author is seeking to establish the facts. Nevertheless, the criticism of many existing conceptions and institutions is keen and cutting. The book is decidedly thought-provoking. The discussion will not fail to make an impression. Personally, I have found the book of great value. Professor Sumner is not so much seeking to establish a theory as to explain certain human institutions. Because of the frank and honest character of the study it is to be highly commended particularly for advanced students of sociology.

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Trevelyan, Sir George O. *The American Revolution.* Part III. Pp. xii, 492.

Price, \$2.50. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1907.

From the time when Burke wrote its contemporary record in the "Annual Register," the English Whigs have given us the most readable histories of the American Revolution, and this, the latest contribution from that prolific source, fully maintains the standard of literary excellence. For an English writer to favor the American side does not necessarily mean an unbiased mind. The English party conflicts of that date were bitter and have been inherited as family feuds, while the present interest which all Englishmen feel in the problems of colonial government renders their discussion of many phases of Revolutionary history less detached than that of American students. Mr. Trevelyan has his full share of prejudices. He hates the Tories, both English and Americans; he has little use for the French, and belittles Vergennes by exalting Beaumarchias; he can see no good in any opponent of Washington, and no fault in his supporters. He is devoted to the Whigs, to Washington, Morris and Franklin, and to the Quakers. In fact, scarcely an individual crosses the page without receiving the stamp of the author's judgment. These judgments are founded on an acquaintance with the literature and correspondence of the period probably more extensive than that of any previous writer on the subject, and the result is a narrative as vivid as a source and with a breadth of information and of views impossible to a contemporary writer.

This substantial volume covers a period of eighteen months, but this is not the result of an uncritical inclusion of unimportant matters, but of the detailed study of the really important events of the period. The significant military operations are given with an excellent comprehension of their

important features, and with an admirable description of the background of physiographical conditions and of the state of public opinion. Particularly good is the impression of the control of the country by the patriotic forces and the futile assistance of Loyalists to the British, in view of the exaggeration of the importance of the latter element in recent American studies; though in that, perhaps, an opposite extreme is reached. No book brings out so clearly, moreover, the services of General Washington during this period. The discussion of diplomacy emphasizes the influence of Frederick the Great, and perhaps unduly discredits the earliest American efforts. It is rather a stimulating sketch than a study. The author's acquaintance with legislative materials is far less satisfactory than his grasp of more personal matter, and the internal history of the Union and the states receives little attention. The book is scholarly and free from vulgar errors of fact, and will have a permanent place in the literature of the subject both for the scholar and the more general reader.

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